Intramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (iCURE) *Application Webinar*

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NIH NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

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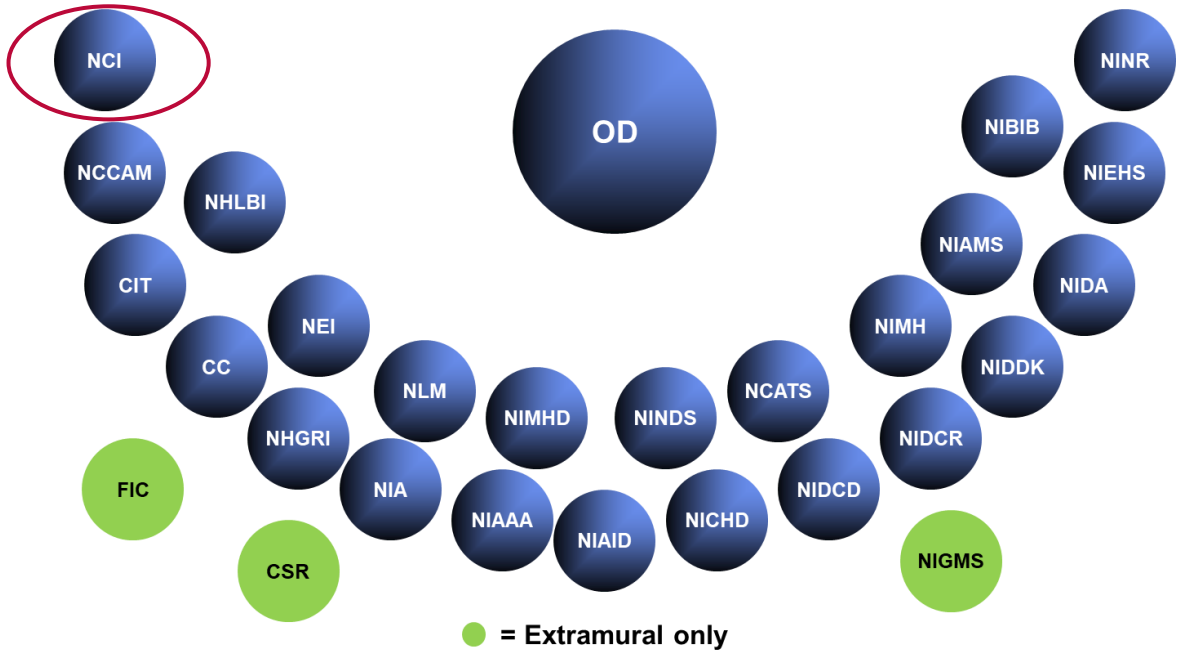
Webinar Goals

1. *Become oriented with NCI and iCURE*
2. *Understand iCURE program expectations*
3. *Learn how to apply to iCURE*

National Institutes of Health
Turning Discovery Into Health

National Institutes of Health Has 27 Institutes and Centers



National Cancer Institute (NCI)

Website: https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci

Organization:

- **Intramural:** conduct research at NCI
- Extramural: support research across the nation

Priorities:

- Research: cancer health disparities; data science; immunotherapy; clinical trials; etc.
- Training

NCI Center to Reduce Cancer Health Disparities (CRCHD)

Diversity Training

CURE
CONTINUING UMBRELLA OF RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

iCURE
Enhancing Diversity in the NCI Intramural Research Community

Partnerships

- Partnerships to Advance Cancer Health Equity (PACHE)

Networks

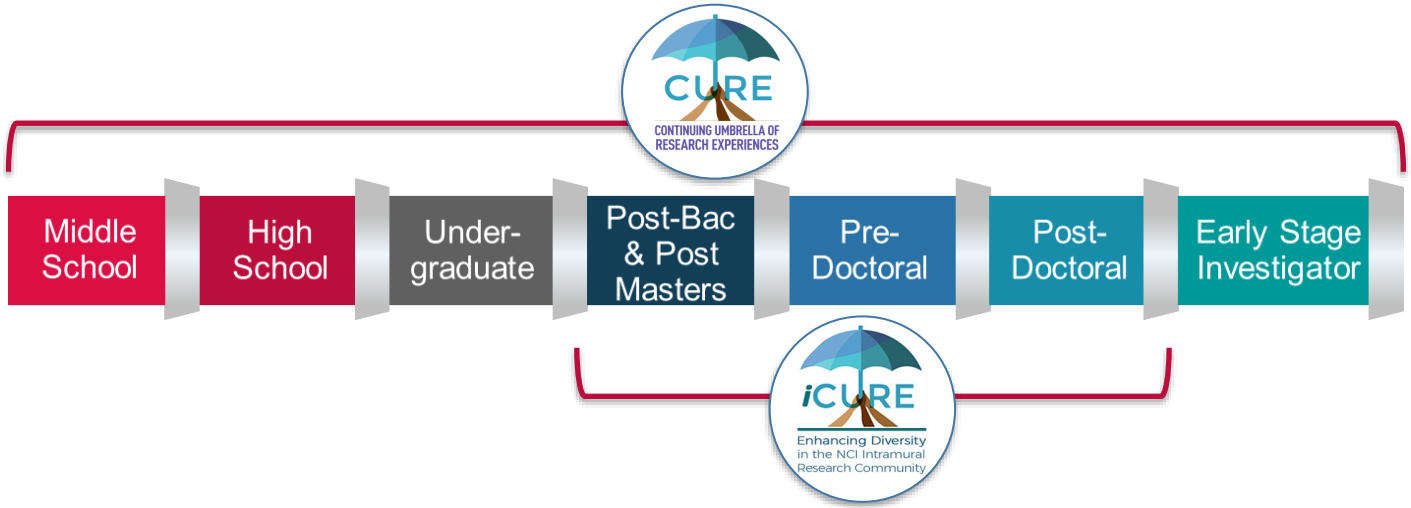
- Geographic Management of Cancer Health Disparities Program (GMaP)
- National Outreach Network (NON)
- CUSP2CT

Cancer Health Disparities Research

- Basic research
- Translational research

NCI CRCHD *Diversity-Focused Training Programs*

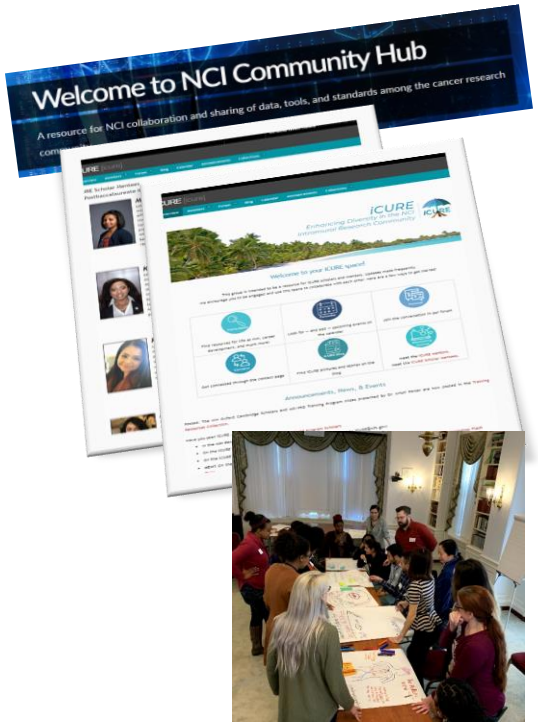
Extramural: Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (CURE)



- Support research experiences of **underrepresented** students and scientists
- Promote professional and career development
- Help the trainees achieve research independence

Intramural: Intramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (iCURE)

More Than a Pipeline:
CURE and iCURE Provide an Ecosystem of Support



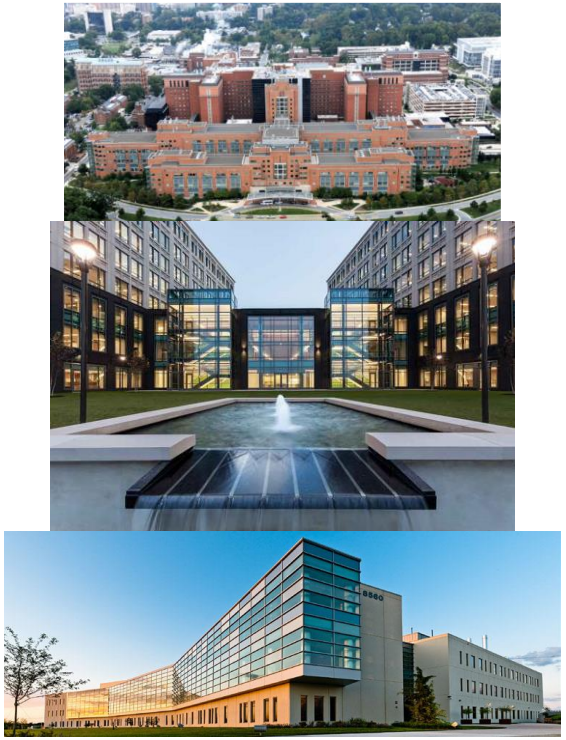
Intramural Continuing Umbrella of Research Experiences (iCURE)

iCURE Goals:

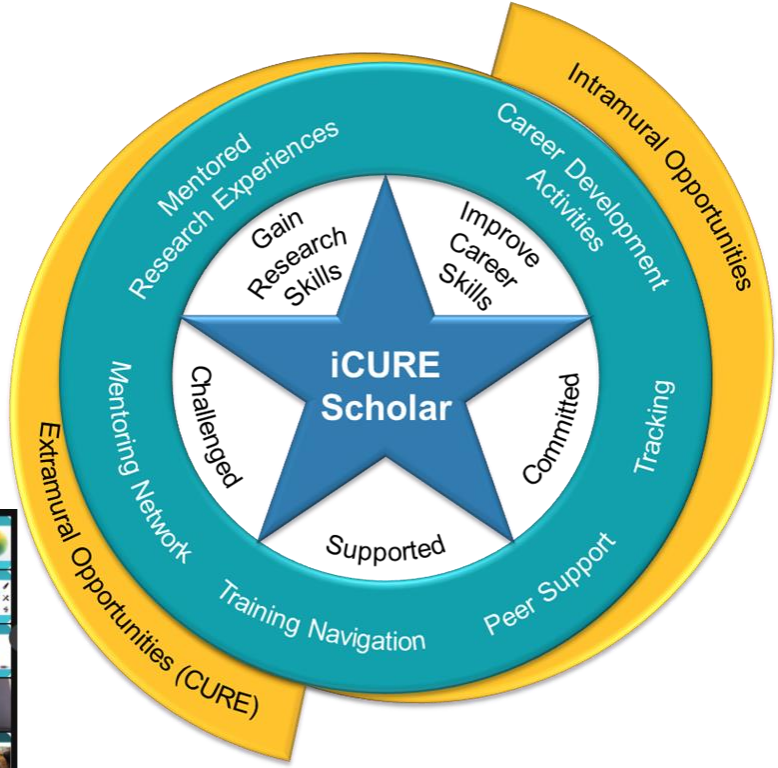
- Enhance research workforce diversity at NCI
- Promote career advancement of scholars
- Foster an inclusive environment in the NCI intramural community

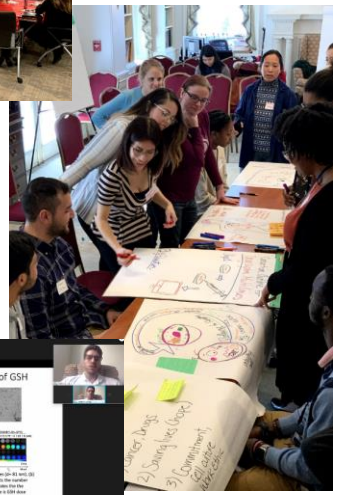
iCURE Supports Research Experiences at All Three Campuses of NCI in Maryland

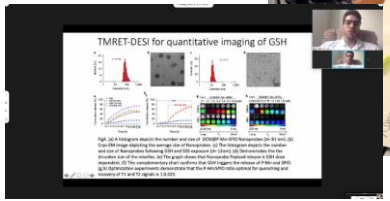
- Mentored research experiences on **NCI campuses** in Bethesda, Shady Grove (Rockville) and Frederick, Maryland
- Supports **postbacs** (2 years), **graduate students** (2 years) and **postdocs** (3 years)
- Centralized review and program-facilitated matches for scholars to NCI PIs; **applicants do not need to pre-identify a PI to apply**
- iCURE matches scholars to PIs in the Center for Cancer Research (CCR), Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics (DCEG), and the Division of Cancer Control and Population Sciences (DCCPS)



iCURE Expectations and Connections







Career Advancement Goals for iCURE Scholars

PB

Postbac/Post Masters: 2 yrs support

Acceptance into a doctoral degree program

Graduate Students: 2 yrs support

Acquire PhD, publish, transition to postdoc or investigator

GS

PD

Postdoctoral Fellows: 3 yrs support

Publish, apply for grants, acquire skills for independence, transition to investigator

iCURE Program Experience

Support from iCURE Program Staff

- Individual scheduled and ad hoc check-ins
- Virtual platforms Hub and Teams

iCURE Cohort Activities

- Social Committee & Journal Club
- iNET – connect with peers in other NIH institutes
- Gatherings and retreats

Research

Professional Development Activities

- CRCHD Professional Development Workshop and Mentored Mock Review
- Scientific focus area units
- Skills development

Mentoring Network

- Diverse perspectives
- Career and professional guidance
- Cultural and social support

iCURE Eligibility

iCURE scholars must be U.S. citizens, legal permanent residents, or non citizen nationals

- Noncitizen nationals – persons who are born in American Samoa or Swains Island

Post-baccalaureate (Incl. Post Master's)

- Must meet both Postbac IRTA and iCURE eligibility criteria

Graduate Students

- Must currently be enrolled in a PhD or equivalent graduate program

Postdoctoral Fellows

- Must have a PhD, MD, or equivalent by proposed iCURE start time
- No more than 5yrs of relevant research experience

iCURE Promotes Diversity in the Cancer Research Workforce

NCI particularly encourages applications from individuals from groups identified in NIH's Notice of Interest in Diversity (NOT-OD-20-031) as underrepresented in the biomedical, clinical, behavioral, and social sciences.

Race/Ethnicity

- Blacks or African Americans
- Hispanics or Latinos
- American Indians or Alaskan Natives
- Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders

Disability

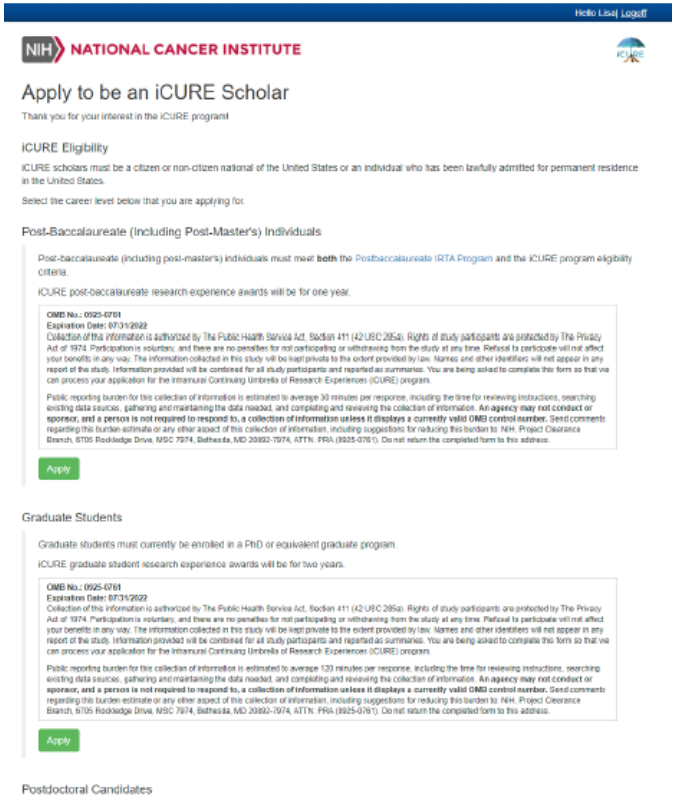
- Physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities

Disadvantaged Background

- Homeless
- Foster care system
- First generation w/ Bachelor's degree
- Federal Pell Grants
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program
- Rural or low income/access areas

Apply to iCURE – Application Process

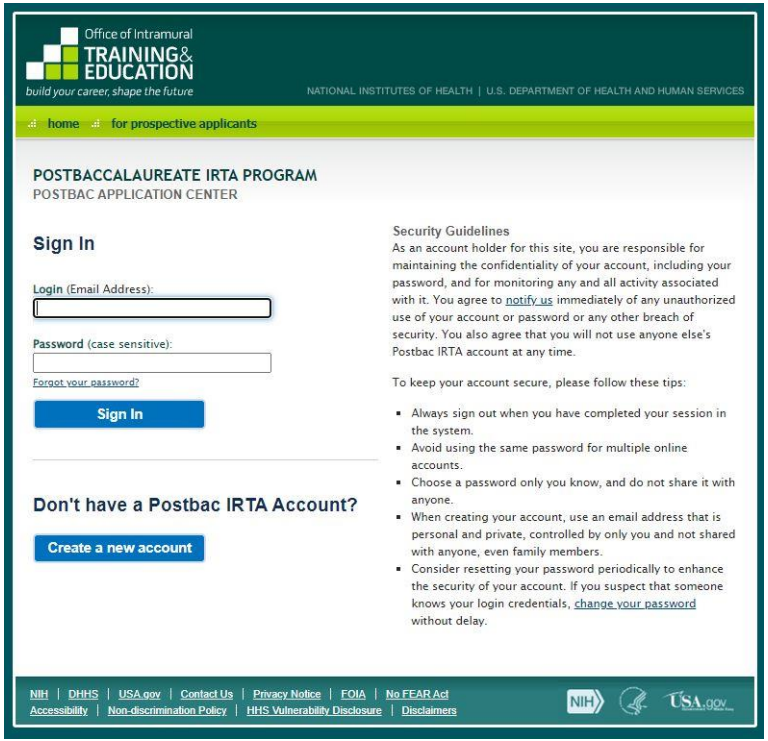
- Review eligibility criteria on the iCURE Website
- An eRA Commons ID is required to apply.
  - If you don't have one, please contact iCURE@nih.gov
- Login to iCURE Management System (*https://ims.nci.nih.gov/*) using your eRA Commons Username (ID) and Password to apply



**Application Process for Postbacs

Post-baccalaureate (including post-masters) individuals must submit an application to the Posbaccalaureate IRTA Program Application Center (https://www2.training.nih.gov/apps/publicforms/pbt/forms/login.aspx). Refer to the website to set up a Postbac IRTA Account to get started with your application.

AND THEN Submit an application to the iCURE Management System (*https://ims.nci.nih.gov/*)



Apply to iCURE – Application Information

- Name, email
- Citizenship
- Gender and Demographics*

  *This information will NOT be used to determine eligibility or qualifications.
- Your immediate and long-term career goals
- Current NIH and/or NCI funding support
- Academic History:
  - Current/most recent institution with GPA
  - Master's GPA (*If applicable*)
  - Undergraduate GPA (*Graduate students*)
- Anything else you feel is relevant

Apply to iCURE – Application Information

- Contact information for three references:
  - *For post-baccalaureate candidates, this information will be collected as part of the Postbaccalaureate IRTA Program Application.*
  - References will be contacted directly by program
  - Friendly reminder – it's always a good idea to communicate with your references before listing them (ask if they will be able to provide a positive reference for you)

Apply to iCURE – Application Uploads

- Post-baccalaureate (including post-masters) individuals – PDF version of your *Postbaccalaureate IRTA Program Application*
- Graduate students and postdoctoral fellows:
  - **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** include your academic history and research experience as well as any publications, grant applications/awards, honors, and professional experience, including any service on scientific and/or peer review boards or sessions.
  - **Transcript:** A copy of your most recent transcript is required.

Anticipated Timeline and Contact Information

Applications must be submitted by January 31, 2022

Contact the team by emailing: *iCURE@nih.gov*
Webpage: *https://www.cancer.gov/about-nci/organization/crchd/diversity-training/icure*
iCURE Management System: https://ims.nci.nih.gov/

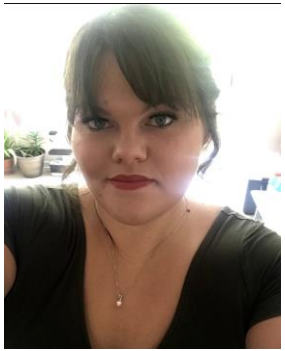
Meet the iCURE Program Team: iCURE@nih.gov

Dr. Jessica Calzola

Dr. Gregory Adams, Jr.

Program Directors

Dawn Reid



Katelyn Garfinkel

Program Specialists

Thank You.
QUESTIONS?

Contact: *iCURE@nih.gov*

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